

# Assignment 1: Your Best Backlog

For this assignment, you'll develop:

- A kanban board using the free online tool [Trello](https://trello.com/) to manage your sprint and product backlogs using previously developed (or new) problem scenario, epic, and child stories

## Assignment Instructions

1. Write up one problem scenario, including the current alternatives. Feel free to use ones you've already created.
2. Write up one of your epics and at least four child stories. For clarity on the next items, please number the epic 1 and the child stories under it 1.1, 1.2, etc. Ditto on reusing your previous work.
3. Explain: How did you decide that these problem scenarios and stories are the best items to include on your next iteration? How will you evaluate the value of the outcomes they create for the user?
4. Re-watch the "Demo: Using Trello for Agile" video to understand how Trello boards function and review the Sample Problem Scenario, Epic, Stories and Kanban to get a sense of one way to set up a kanban board.
5. Log in to Trello or set up a free Trello account: <https://trello.com/>
6. Create a first column on the far left labeled 'Product Backlog'. Note: The main reason for this configuration is to make peer reviews manageable. Generally, teams use a separate board to manage the product backlog and then to move those items into a sprint backlog board at the sprint planning meeting.
7. Add cards for the (minimum) four child stories you wrote. Prefix the stories with their numbers from the submission above (1.2, 2.1, etc.) so that your reviewer can easily understand their context within your epics and problem scenarios.
8. Prioritize your stories within the product backlog column, so that you can "slice the lasagna" as thinly as possible and make sure that even if you don't finish everything that you're still delivering something whose value you can assess with the user.
  - a. Explain: What are the highest priority narratives that you should implement to create a coherent, testable version of the epic? Which stories from the epic are not critical to a minimum testable version of the epic and why?
9. Create columns for the sprint backlog that reflect the steps in your development process. Include work-in-progress (WIP) limits if desired.
  - a. If development is underway on this project, focus on making sure you're reflecting the process as it really works.
  - b. If this is a new project, think about what realistic steps you'd want to propose to your team for discussion, and why.
10. Answer the following questions about your backlog:
  - a. Explain: Why are these the right steps during the sprint? What should you focus on measuring and observing to assess the process and improve it?
  - b. Explain: Did you include WIP limits? If so, how did you settle on the WIP limits? If not, why not and how instead will you manage flow and avoid stack up's?

11. Submit your trello board along with your written explanation for peer review. You can
  - a. Take a clear screenshot (or shots) and add it to your problem scenario/epics/child stories and explanations and submit as a PDF
  - b. Make the board public and include the link with your PDFed problem scenario/epics/child stories and explanations